

## **Erosion Control Project Repairs Damage from Off Road Vehicle Use In the Secret Ravine Watershed**

Dry Creek flows through portions of the cities of Rocklin, Roseville and Sacramento, California. Despite its urban influence it provides much-needed habitat for anadromous fish. The project site is located in the Secret Ravine watershed, a major tributary to Dry Creek. Portions of Secret Ravine have been heavily impacted from off road vehicle (ORV) use. The Dry Creek Conservancy worked with the City of Roseville and surrounding landowners to permanently block off vehicle access and implement erosion control measures.

Dry Creek is a tributary to Steelhead Creek, which is a tributary to the Sacramento River. Dry Creek is not listed on the 303(d) list but it provides valuable habitat for salmon and steelhead with nearly 80% of spawning occurring in the Secret Ravine watershed. Each fall volunteers from the Dry Creek Conservancy conduct a spawning survey to count returning salmon. Erosion and sedimentation is the biggest impact on fish habitat in the Dry Creek watershed. Due to heavy ORV use, numerous roads have been created and hillsides have been denuded by vehicles practicing hill climbing.



The above is an example of an erosion control BMP installed in the project area. At this site ORV use had created an informal road over a small hill (left photo). Erosion control matting and a water bar were installed and the area was seeded and mulched (right photo).

The Dry Creek Conservancy worked with the City of Roseville and local landowners to close access points and install six signs reminding the public that vehicle entrance is prohibited. Volunteers from the Dry Creek Conservancy worked to repair and revegetate 40 sites that had been heavily impacted by vehicle traffic. The sites were seeded and mulched and water bars were installed in key locations.

Activities were undertaken pursuant to the Dry Creek Coordinated Management Plan and Secret Ravine Adaptive Management Plan. These plans are continuously reviewed and implemented by the Dry Creek Resource Management Committee, a stakeholder group made up of local residents, state and local agency representatives and other interested parties.

These actions have reduced a major source of sediment to an important salmon spawning stream. The local populace has been educated about the importance of open space and the impact that uncontrolled ORV use has on aquatic life in Dry Creek. And, as a result of this project, the Dry Creek Conservancy has strengthened partnerships with local landowners and the City of Roseville.

## **VI. PARTNERS and FUNDING**

The Dry Creek Conservancy collaborated on this project with the Dry Creek Coordinated Resource Management Committee, the City of Roseville, local landowners and ORV clubs. The project was funded by \$43,393 in 319(h) funds and \$51,497 in matching funds.